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The Highlander

Thursday **April 11 2024** | Issue 635

INSIDE: DOC(K) DAY THIS WEEKEND PAGE 18

FREE



Sweet!

Rick Wood stokes the fire at his wood-fired maple syrup operation in Carnarvon. Alongside wife, Wendy, he's been selling his Colour of Wood bottled maple syrup since 2014. The two hosted visitors during maple fest weekend April 6-7. See the full story on page 6.
Photo by Mike Baker.

Loss of 12-Mile launch concerns boaters

By Lisa Gervais

An estimated 1,000 properties on Boshkung, Little Boshkung and Twelve Mile lakes could be affected if the new owners of Wedgewood Marina get out of the marina and boat launch business, Boshkung Lake Property Owners Association (BLPOA) president Tom Steele says.

RPM Marinas general manager Cheryl Downs recently shared the news on social media that Wedgewood RPM had been sold and “the new owners will not be operating the property as a marina. The transition will take place early this summer.”

The property, on Hwy. 35 between Carnarvon and Minden Hills, was put up for

sale in January.

In the Facebook post, Downs said those who use Wedgewood for boat storage would soon receive their annual correspondence from manager, Kerry Reid, outlining the out-of-storage process for boat retrieval. As per usual, they'll need to request their out-date, providing three weeks' notice, she added.

Downs said, “we want to assure our customers and partners that we are committed to providing the service you’ve come to expect and that it is business as usual.”

The Balsam location is also up for sale, but the Haliburton and Kennisis Lake locations

Continued ‘Hwy. 118’ on page 2

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The launch at Wedgewood Marina. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

'Hwy. 118 launch too shallow'

Continued from page 1

are not for sale and Downs said they will continue to offer their services from those locations.

Steele told association members and *The Highlander*, "we are extremely concerned, as is Twelve Mile Lake and Little Boshkung (TMLB), that the ramp at the foot of Twelve Mile is to be removed as part of the sale."

The Highlander did not get independent confirmation of this removal. However, Steele said the tentative date is May 22.

"The property will no longer be operated as a marina and now we are all concerned. How do we get our boats out in the fall? For some people, it is also, where do I get service, fuel and store my boat? And for kids, where do I get my ice cream and snacks?"

Steele said a group of people from all three lakes met April 8 and are working with Algonquin Highlands mayor Liz Danielsen and Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter.

Steele and Carter said Algonquin Highlands operates a boat launch at 8748 Hwy. 118 into Little Boshkung Lake. However, Carter said he believes the only challenge is the

close proximity to the highway. Steele said the issue for them is the water is shallow at the launch and may not accommodate larger boats.

Steele said, "the ramp is the responsibility of Algonquin Highlands. And the issue is simple - not enough water depth to take the majority of the boats out in the fall at the current Hwy. 118 location."

Danielsen said Algonquin Highlands had only just found out about the issue and were investigating.

"But there are some challenges because we would need to have a survey done and it doesn't fit into this year's work schedule or budget," she said.

"Obviously, there's going to have to be some more discussion. And it is my hope that through co-operative efforts, we can convince the buyers to leave the launch there, at least until the end of the season, and give us some time to plan something for our boat launch."

Steele told members, "we just wanted to give you a heads-up that it is something that will affect over 1,000 properties on the three lakes. It will affect resorts, restaurants and other Haliburton activities."

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County looking to improve landfills

By Lisa Gervais

The potential future of landfilling in the Highlands came before County council April 10 with a presentation on single-tier waste management.

Dysart's John Watson, Algonquin Highlands' Melissa Murray, Highlands East's Perry Kelly and Minden Hills' Chelsea Cosh delivered a staff report emanating from the 2020 service delivery review – accompanying a final report by Dillon Consulting Ltd.

The staff landfill leads said waste management is “an increasingly complex, and expensive, component of municipal services.” They added each township collects, processes and disposes [material]... with large geographic boundaries and small populations.”

They spoke of duplication, noting contracts are issued individually by each township, for waste hauling and processing, site attendants, environmental monitoring and reporting, extended producer responsibility agreements, and administrative reporting. “Often the same for each municipality, and each municipality completes the same report.

“Waste management services vary throughout the four municipalities. These variations include disposal fees, garbage bag limits, policies, and procedures. Residents and businesses can be confused by these variations. Promotion and education efforts are challenged by conflicting practices,” they added.

Watson, Murray, Kelly and Cosh said they do not totally operate in silos, having recently collaborated on the Haliburton County Waste Wizard app and household hazardous waste days, which allow the public to go to any landfill.

However, they added, “a single-tier waste management system has the potential to streamline policies, administrative functions, contracting, and customer service.”

In the service delivery review, waste management services were one of six key customer areas identified for improvement. Key recommendations included: establishing a waste inter-municipal committee; standardization of waste policies across Haliburton County; and a County-wide review of waste facilities.

Referencing the Dillon Consulting Ltd.



John Watson of Dysart et al delivered the staff report April 10. *File.*

report, staff said the consultants visited all landfills and transfer stations, interviewed staff, and researched and analyzed data. The final report includes a detailed review of the current state of waste management amongst the four lower-tier municipalities, a jurisdictional review, and proposed service delivery model for the future.

“The final report analyzes the concept of providing waste management services under a single administration at the County level. A coordinated service delivery model would provide dedicated staffing and expertise to plan and operate waste management services,” the staff report says.

It goes on to say, “in a coordinated approach, all waste management functions currently managed individually by each lower-tier municipality would be centralized. Common services would be recovered through user fees and the County rate tax levy.”

Dillon has suggested three options for transitioning. Option one would see the County administering. Option two is administration by a non-profit municipally-owned corporation. And, option three is administration by a co-ordinating committee.

Dillon Consulting's report recommends

the preferred service delivery model begin with a coordinating committee and transition into County administration. It's suggested the change could happen in one to two years “with the harmonization of service levels occurring over a longer time.”

As for next steps, staff said if councillors agreed with the recommendation, they should designate and fund a County staff resource to work on a transition plan, and seek approval from each of the four lower-tier municipal councils.

Conversely, the staff report said if the County disagrees, it could choose to establish a waste management collaborating committee... “to govern its operations and scope of work, for example, with focus on streamlining service and reducing duplicate efforts.”

Dillon Consulting said there are 18 sites in the County, 10 landfills and eight transfer stations, with environmental monitoring of 20 closed sites. The net operating cost is \$4.37 million annually.

Dillon referenced “rationalizing the number of locations based on travel distances.”

Report off to townships

Commenting on Wednesday's report, coun. Walt McKechnie said, “I cannot believe we're not talking about incinerating garbage.” However, the consultant said that was not in the scope of their current project.

Coun. Murray Fearrey indicated there was nothing in the report on cost savings, with the consultant saying it was difficult to quantify without going to procurement. The Dysart mayor commented that sometimes there were advantages in “going together, and sometimes not.” He recalled three reports in his time on council, including recommending a centralized landfill, that would cost substantially more, not less.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux said they would have to see the “trifecta” in recommending the service go to the County: cost savings, improved user experience, and efficiencies to operate.

Coun. Bob Carter added, “I'm not seeing a compelling argument,” since the townships are collaborating.

Council received the report for information only, deferred it to the lower-tier governments, and the discussion will come back to the County at the end of May.

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Group calls for new provincial audit of HHHS

By Mike Baker

A group of County-based health care advocates are again urging Ontario's auditor general to launch a full-scale investigation into Haliburton Highlands Health Services' (HHHS) closure of the Minden ER.

Jeff Nicholls, Adria Scarano, Aurora McGinn, and Tracy Klomp maker have been leading the charge behind Minden Paper, a group of working professionals who have spent the past 12 months analyzing HHHS' reasoning for the shuttering.

Last November, the group wrote to Shelley Spence, Ontario's auditor general, and the office of the integrity commissioner, to request a thorough investigation. Nicholls said the team, which also includes an advisory group of 10 to 15 other people located across Canada, had spent more than 9,000 hours compiling data from HHHS and every hospital in Ontario from the 2022-23 fiscal years.

"We believe the closure of the Minden emergency department serves as a microcosm for what's happening to hospitals, and health care services, across Ontario," Nicholls said.

The decision to close the Minden site was made by the HHHS board last spring. It shuttered six weeks later. Board chair David O'Brien stated repeatedly over the following weeks that the decision had more to do with a local health care worker shortage than money, but Nicholls and the rest of the Minden Paper team disagree.

They have questioned how the organization's deficit grew from \$220,000 in June 2022 to approximately \$4.1 million in March 2023.

Spence replied to Minden Paper March 19, stating much of the requested information was included in a 2023 report the auditor general's office compiled looking at emergency department issues provincially. Spence said several recommendations have been submitted to the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health, and dozens of hospitals, though she did not state whether HHHS was on that list.

The auditor general's office will follow-up on the status of those recommendations this year, with a public report to be published in 2025.



There were several public protests last year following HHHS' announcement it would be closing the Minden ER. *File.*

Nicholls contends the Minden Paper team has uncovered a major oversight in the auditor general's report, which claims HHHS extensively utilized the Health Force Ontario Locum program - to fill physician ER shifts - at its Haliburton and Minden sites between 2020 and 2023, logging more than 4,000 hours. Nicholls claims the program was rarely used in Minden, as corroborated by former Minden ER doctor Dennis Fiddler in a 2023 letter.

"Minden did not use the locum program for physicians until April 2023... the AG's audit oversights regarding usage - incorrectly suggesting Haliburton and Minden used the locum program in equal amounts - raise serious concerns," Nicholls said.

The team called on the auditor general's office to re-evaluate data regarding Minden's use of the locum program and amend its 2023 report.

Spokesperson Becky Fong said the auditor general's office "carefully considers" all information when selecting and planning

audits, including information submitted by the public, but noted, "we do not comment on specific details of information received by our office, or with respect to any planned or ongoing audit work."

When audits are complete, they are tabled in the Legislature and then made public, she said.

Lauren Ernst, communications lead at HHHS, told *The Highlander* that HHHS did not distinguish separate numbers for locum program usage for Haliburton and Minden, instead grouping the two hospitals together in its reporting. She noted the sites utilized "almost" 4,000 physician hours between April 2022 and March 2023.

McGinn said she, and the community, are still waiting on answers.

"People still don't really understand why this happened... we need to address the lack of accountability and transparency before we can move on," she said.

Slippery slope

Klomp maker said she inspected year-end financial reports from hundreds of hospitals in Ontario, to see if the problems plaguing HHHS were happening elsewhere. The results, she said, were alarming.

Klomp maker found that 102 hospitals ended the 2023 fiscal year with a deficit - an increase from 33 at the end of the 2022 fiscal year. The average deficit rose by 992 per cent, from \$545,000 to \$5.9 million, with the total deficit climbing 3,300 per cent - from \$17.9 million to \$610 million.

Five hospitals have released projections for the 2024 fiscal year - Niagara Health System, Brant Community Healthcare in Brantford, Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington, St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton, and Hamilton Health Sciences. Collectively they are anticipating their deficit to grow 280 per cent, to \$145.8 million from \$38.3 million in 2023.

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- Connection and Response, an exhibit by artist Bruce Cull, will be on display April 4 - June 8 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden. Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM. For more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-04-1000-Connection-and-Response-An-Exhibit-by-Bruce-Cull>
- The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14. The next class takes place on Tuesday, April 16 from 3:30-4:30 pm at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. All materials are supplied.
- In recognition of Earth Day, join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a special screening of "The Magnitude of All Things" (2020) at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, April 18 at 5:00 PM. Admission is free. All ages are welcome. For more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-04-18-1700-The-Magnitude-of-All-Things-Documentary-Screening>

NO DAYTIME BURNING - MESSAGE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

No daytime burning from April 1st to October 31st in any year. It is considered fire season. Fire restrictions are from 7:00 AM till 7:00 PM (daytime burning). No person shall start a fire outdoors during the restricted time in fire season.

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 - Organize a litter clean up
 - Help preserve and protect our lakes and rivers
 - Reduce food waste
 - Plant trees

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- April 25 - Regular Council Meeting
- May 9 - Regular Council Meeting
- May 30 - Regular Council Meeting
- June 13 - Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

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Wig species-at-risk delays demolition

By Mike Baker

A months-long Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) investigation of the Wigamog Inn site in Dysart et al has found species at-risk could be present at the site – further delaying demolition efforts.

Gary Wheeler, MECP spokesperson, told *The Highlander* last week that ministry officials had been in contact with property owner, Aurora Group, to request they address “several” regulatory requirements for on-site operations and pending demolition activities before proceeding.

“The owner is required to undertake assessments on the property, including a species at-risk assessment, should demolition plans continue,” Wheeler said.

He noted species at-risk observed, or known to frequent the area, include the chimney swift, eastern whip-poor-will, Blanding’s turtle, at-risk bats, and the eastern hog-nosed snake.

Hailey Cole, a Dysart bylaw officer, said “there is a reasonable likelihood” that species at-risk may be present at the site. She has been in touch with Aurora Group, and confirmed an assessment is underway and expected to be complete in about six months.

“That timeframe is to allow for observation during multiple seasons,” Cole said.

It’s the latest in a long line of setbacks since the township started looking into the property in 2019. While Aurora Group touted major investment for the site after buying it in March 2016 - posting plans to its website for the reopening of the inn and the Moose

Bar and Grill, as well building 180 new residential units – little has been done, and the property today sits empty, in a state of disrepair.

Dysart’s previous bylaw officer, Robert Mascia, reported carrying out multiple inspections between 2019 and May 2022, when he issued a remedial action notice to Aurora Group outlining 47 infractions of the township’s property standards bylaw. Issues varied from downed power lines to smashed windows, damaged doors, and collapsed decks.

At a property standards committee meeting in the fall of 2022, Aurora Group said they intended to demolish the 37 buildings that make up the Wigamog site. They then missed a deadline to submit a demolition permit, which led the committee, in October 2022, to direct Dysart’s chief building official, Karl Korpela, to issue an RFP to have the site torn down.

Staff were still working on the RFP in March 2023 when Aurora Group started the demolition process. To date, around a dozen buildings have been taken down.

Cole noted staff assessed the property again in November, working with Aurora Group to ensure fencing was put up around an empty in-ground pool and that access points to all remaining buildings were sealed.

On top of the issues surrounding at-risk species, Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey said he was aware of a complaint being made to the ministry about active chemicals at the site. Wheeler said the ministry has not confirmed the presence of asbestos, or any other chemical on the site, but is mandating



The Wigamog Inn site on April 6, with the main lodge boarded up and warning fencing scaling the property. Photo by Mike Baker.

that Aurora Group take inventory of, and appropriately store, any on-site waste before proceeding with demolition.

Wheeler noted all waste “must” be disposed of at an approved waste management facility. Rubble from several buildings torn down last spring remain in place at the Wigamog site.

Fearrey expressed his frustration over the situation stretching into the summer.

“It’s disappointing news for the community, but also for council. This has gone on way too long. It’s more disappointing the way the owners have delayed it, time after time with promises they don’t keep,” Fearrey said. “With the ministry involved now, it’s really out of our control [what happens next].”

Aurora Group did not respond to a request for an interview.

AROUND THE COUNTY NEWS

Hyland Taxi planning city bus

Hyland Taxi is planning a Haliburton to Toronto bus route that owner Martin Grant says is “coming soon.”

A notice has gone up on hylandtaxi.ca promoting a line-run service from Haliburton to Toronto and back.

Grant said they’ll use an 11-seater van for

now, and operate on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, as the former TOK Coachlines did.

A company called Entertainment Tour Travel Inc. took over from TOK but did not operate long before suspending service, although its website now says its north east bus route will reopen on May 1 and run Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Both companies’ websites have information on routes, schedules, and fares.

Grant said he would like to start the service

as soon as he can. He said the vehicle is ready to go and he is just waiting on insurance for the driver.

“We’ve got no bus service now. There’s no way to get out of town,” he said of demand for such a service.

In the summer, Grant said they may have to use a larger bus, but for now, an 11-seater should suffice. He has a 23-passenger bus as part of his fleet. If demand exceeds 23 passengers, he said he has another mid-sized

vehicle he could use.

He said he has put time and money into the plan, securing a vehicle and making sure it is certified and safe, and finding drivers.

He is hopeful the service takes off, and thinks demand will increase in May, and especially when summer campers come up from the GTA.

(Around the County news compiled by Lisa Gervais).



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Liquid gold flows in Haliburton County

By Mike Baker

Rick Wood couldn't believe his luck this year when he was able to forego his snowshoes while tapping trees on his Carnarvon acreage.

Working alongside wife, Wendy, the Woods have been producing maple syrup on their Peterson Road property since 2014. What started as a small hobby-like operation, using buckets to collect sap from 80 trees in their first year, has grown to a professional system that draws from more than 850 trees and encompasses around seven kilometres of pipelines.

The Woods were one of many local makers to open their doors to the public April 6 and 7 for the County's annual Maple Fest. They welcomed around 15 people to their property on Saturday, providing tours of their sugar shack and samples of their Colour of Wood syrup.

"It's always nice to give people a peek behind the curtain, to show them what we do. And it's a nice way to meet people we don't know," Wendy said.

Rick noted this was their best-ever year production-wise. Despite dropping from 1,000 taps to 850 this season, Rick collected 970 litres of syrup – a big increase from the previous high of 797 litres a few years ago.

He credited the season's mild weather – saying he was fully tapped by the end of January. The Woods had their first boil Feb. 4

– Rick said he usually spends about 10 days

in the bush tapping trees. He must prepare the system, too. Rick said there's a one-inch mainline traversing his property, which has 46 lateral runs connected. Each of those runs has 20 to 25 taps on it.

"It makes a natural vacuum coming downhill to the shack, which helps with production," he said.

Once the sap makes it to the shack, it's stored in a tank out back. Rick then feeds from there into an interior tank, which can hold up to 1,000 litres. He has a reverse osmosis system that separates the water, which usually leaves around 300 litres of sap to boil. He'll work at least 12 hours a day during maple season.

"It keeps me busy," he said.

Bob Snider, of Neil Brown's Farm in Gooderham, said it was business as usual for him this year. He decided to forego the early rush and stick to his usual schedule that sees him tap in early March. He pulls from 300 trees, usually producing around 300 litres annually.

"I don't try to capture every last bucket... for me, this is a fun family activity come winter. We didn't see much of a difference," Brown said.

John Williams, executive director of the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association, said "I've been hearing generally good things – every year there are people who do well, and people who do not so well. That can be related to the microclimate of the bush, or maybe they missed a weather window early or late in the season."



Top: Rick Wood shares some fresh maple syrup with neighbour, Harvey Walker. Above: Rick Wood shows off a 1,000 litre storage tank that stores sap at his sugar shack.

Photos by Mike Baker.



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The**Highlander**

Hammering at skilled trades

By Lisa Gervais

County council has backed a request from director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, to enter into partnership with the Haliburton County Homebuilders Association (HCHBA), which is working with Haliburton Highlands Secondary School to boost the trades.

Ovell said that last May, the County and HCHBA hosted their first skilled trades bus tour. They took 30 students to five different locations, highlighting skilled trades job opportunities. They went to Sunbelt Rentals, Holden Truss, a construction site at 75 per cent completion, a finished timber frame home, and a large landscaping site.

“At each site, the employers were provided an opportunity to address the students and discuss the employment options within their sector and the stability of the jobs,” Ovell said. “The program was well received and will be run again in the spring of 2024.”

HCHBA members have also been going to tech, math and science classrooms at the high school. But Ovell said it was noted the association was donating not only time but about \$3,000 in materials as well. So, the partners came up with the idea for the County to provide financial support to the HCHBA, to allow them to purchase additional materials, tools, and safety equipment, to enhance the school-based program.

The economic director said the program is covering the fundamentals of framing and drywall installation, and providing an introduction to electrical work.

The County, during its March 27 meeting, committed to the nearly \$8,000 in costs.

Coun. Cec Ryall commented, “that’s exciting... university is a great option, but trades are what we need the most.”

Coun. Murray Fearrey added, “in my day, that was called shop, everybody took the



Former HHSS student Braeden Miller at a past event at the local high school. *File.*

course, that was a long time ago. It’s the right thing to do... we need to do more of this sort of thing.”

Ovell said if successful, the partners will look to continue this year, and potentially expand the program in 2025.

HCHBA president Kevin Hodgkinson said the County “stepping up to the plate like they did is huge.” He said it’s important to get more tools and materials into the hands of high school students. Equally, it’s key to get

association members into the classroom.

He said as an association, they are aware that a lack of affordable housing is a deterrent to out-of-town tradespeople moving to the Highlands. So, having a presence within the high school lets students know they have an option to stay and work in the County.

“We’re going to have a serious shortage of tradespeople in the coming years as people start to retire. There’s work here.”

A MESSAGE FROM



Join us for the Warden’s Breakfast at Medeba Camp on April 23rd at 8am

Meet Warden Liz Danielsen and hear her plans for Haliburton County. There will be an opportunity for questions as well.

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Newly Located at 5152 County Rd 21 (beside Timber-Mart)



ALGONQUIN HIGHLAND NEWS

Church land rezoned

Algonquin Highlands has pushed through a severance proposal for the former Maple Lake United Church site, with the township officially assuming ownership of the cemetery grounds.

Planner, Sean O’Callaghan, told council at an April 4 meeting that everything was finalized for the township to take over the 2.44-acre cemetery, which staff have maintained for several years. He doesn’t anticipate any additional costs to the township.

The former church building has been severed from the cemetery lands and been rezoned rural residential, for the purpose of transitioning it into a living space, O’Callaghan said. He noted the property had been conditionally sold.

Church members voted to disband the congregation in February 2022 due to low attendance. It had served the Maple Lake community since 1901.

What’s that name?

Council will spend time at an upcoming meeting discussing potential road names for a new 17-unit subdivision coming to the Halls Lake area.

Greg Bishop, a County-based surveyor, said the homes will be serviced by a municipal road along the Kennis River, just north of Halls Lake. During the approval process, the new thoroughfare was referred to as Hawk Valley Drive, which Bishop said he’s happy to keep.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said she didn’t have any issues using that name, with coun. Sabrina Richards saying she felt it was “appropriate for the neighbourhood.”

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux suggested holding off on approving the name, saying she wanted time to look at historical mapping and documents for the area to see if there was a better fit. CAO Angie Bird also suggested reaching out to the Stanhope Heritage Museum Committee

for any suggestions they may have.

Danielsen said she’d prefer not to name the road after a person, noting “it can create conflict and certain expectations in people” that she’d rather avoid. Council deferred the naming to a future meeting.

Coaches wanted

Algonquin Highlands is seeking volunteer coaches to assist with this summer’s Stanhope soccer league.

The local league is described as a fun, non-competitive, skills-building league for children aged four to 11. Games take place Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m, in July and August at the soccer fields behind the Stanhope Firefighters’ Community Hall. Registration for players opens April 15.

Anyone interested in coaching can contact recreation@algonquinhighlands.ca or call 705-766-9968. (*Algonquin Highlands news compiled by Mike Baker*).

TheHighlander

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

STAFF

PUBLISHER

Heather Kennedy

heather@thehighlander.ca

EDITORIAL

Lisa Gervais

Editor | editor@thehighlander.ca

Mike Baker

Asst. Editor | mike@thehighlander.ca

Kimberly Strong-Knight

Contributor

SALES

Dawn Poissant | dawn@thehighlander.ca

Laurie Johnson | laurie@thehighlander.ca

BUSINESS MANAGER

Glenda Mumford

admin@thehighlander.ca

DESIGN

Tania Moher

Manager | production@thehighlander.ca

DISTRIBUTION

Walt Griffin

CONTACT

705-457-2900

123 Maple Avenue, Box 1024

Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0

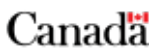
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Trades partnership a win

I've lived in Haliburton County for eight years, and for as long as I have been a Highlander, talk of a shortage of skilled tradespeople, as well as a lack of housing for them, has been a hot topic.

I've heard two terms of County councillors lament 'why can't we do more with the high school or Haliburton School of Art + Design (HSAD)'?

So, it was heartening to see County director of economic development, Scott Ovell, bring a report to a recent council meeting about a budding partnership between the County and the Haliburton County Homebuilders Association (HCHBA) – which is in turn working with Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS).

The County has basically committed to giving the HCHBA about \$8,000 so it can purchase tools and materials from local businesses to put into the high school.

Last May, the County and HCHBA, in conjunction with Jason Morissette at the high school, organized for 30 students to spend a day visiting skilled trades worksites in the County. They went to Sunbelt Rentals, Holden Truss, a construction site at 75 per cent completion, a finished timber frame

home, and a large landscaping site.

It was experiential learning at its best.

The students got to hear from people in the trades, ask questions, and see exactly what future jobs, such as carpentry, electrician and plumber, might look like.

It was deemed a huge success by the County, HCHBA and the school.

In addition to the inaugural bus tour, members of the HCHBA have been volunteering to go into the school to share their practical and theoretical knowledge, in shop as well as math and science classes.

I don't know about you, but calculating which speeding train was going to make it to the station first did not set me on fire. However, had someone come to my class to explain that math equations could one day help to calculate how to build a wall, and make a very good wage off of doing that, I might have sat up a little straighter in my seat.

When I was in school a thousand years ago, it was deemed the smart kids went to university and the not-so-clever went to college. I wish I had been given more exposure to the prospect of entering the trades. Even today, as a keyboard warrior,

I wonder what it would be like to be on a roof somewhere in Haliburton County with a spectacular view of a nearby lake?

Getting kids interested in high school is fundamental to our skilled trades shortage. Drawing from a pool of people who already live in the County is a no-brainer. With changed housing rules that allow secondary dwelling units, these kids could easily have their own future homes on large properties owned by their parents.

The best news is the County, HCHBA and high school are planning a second bus tour this spring and it's hoped HCHBA members can visit the high school at least once a month. They're volunteering their time and materials, so having the support of the County makes tremendous sense.

It's an idea that is most welcome and one we can all get behind.



By Lisa Gervais

Good ol' hockey game

Spring is always an exciting time for hockey fans.

After months of regular season play, whether it be rep or local league, our Highland Storm youth teams are engaged in playoffs. So, too, the Haliburton County Jr. A Huskies. It's regularly said, whether in interviews with players and coaches, or conversations with fans in the stands, that the game feels a little different come playoffs.

The stakes are higher in a limited game series. You can see on the ice how the players give that little bit more – they'll chase every loose puck, go that extra mile on the forecheck, and usually aren't afraid to get in their opponents' faces.

While the Huskies and Storm have wrapped up for the season, many local hockey fans' attention will be turning back to the big leagues. The NHL regular season ends next week, with playoffs likely starting the weekend of April 20.

Having grown up in Europe – where most major sports leagues play out a regular season, with the first-place team at the end winning the championship, so no playoffs – it took me a while to understand the clamour for the post-season. To me, it seemed less about proving who the best team is, and a lot more about who can handle the gruelling schedule, the hard-hitting games, and all the luck and randomness, better. It's more a battle of will, than skill.

But the thing I was overlooking is that battle of will component is such a key part of the sport. In speaking with Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay following his team's first-round playoff exit to the Cobourg Cougars last month, he, I, and I'm sure many others, felt the Huskies were a more well-rounded, talented team. The Cougars just wanted it more.

With NHL playoffs set to hit our screens next week, I'll be making a point to tune into all Toronto Maple Leafs games. This is the first year I'd consider myself a real fan – where I've watched games, read reports and opinion pieces analyzing the team's trials and tribulations, listened to podcasts. I'm already mentally preparing myself for the inevitable first round exit!

This year has been different, too, as I've been engaged in a competitive fantasy hockey league. After years of playing, but not really playing, I started to get a little more serious about it last season. So much so that I launched my own league, with a group of friends. I'd highly recommend it.

For those unaware of what fantasy hockey is – you get a group of people together and organize a draft, where you'll take it in turns selecting real life players to represent your team. This is done online through sites like Yahoo, ESPN, and Fantrax. Throughout the season, your players then earn points based on their real-life performance. It's a cool

concept, and pretty addictive once you get into it.

My goal for my team was to select a Maple Leaf to give me more incentive to watch games. I picked third overall and took Auston Matthews. You know, the guy who just scored his 66th goal of the season the other night.

For some added fun, I also drafted Haliburton's Matt Duchene. That worked out incredibly well – his performances secured wins in three pivotal weeks in the regular season. He also scored the final goal of my season, a tally against the Colorado Avalanche April 7, to secure me my very first fantasy championship. I thought that was pretty poetic.

I didn't think any other sport would come close to rivalling soccer for me in terms of enjoyment, and the emotions it makes you feel. But hockey is getting there. Really, I have the Huskies and the Storm to thank for that. Covering local games has helped to unlock a love I didn't know was there.

Stompin' Tom knew what he was talking about all those years ago... hockey is a good ol' game.



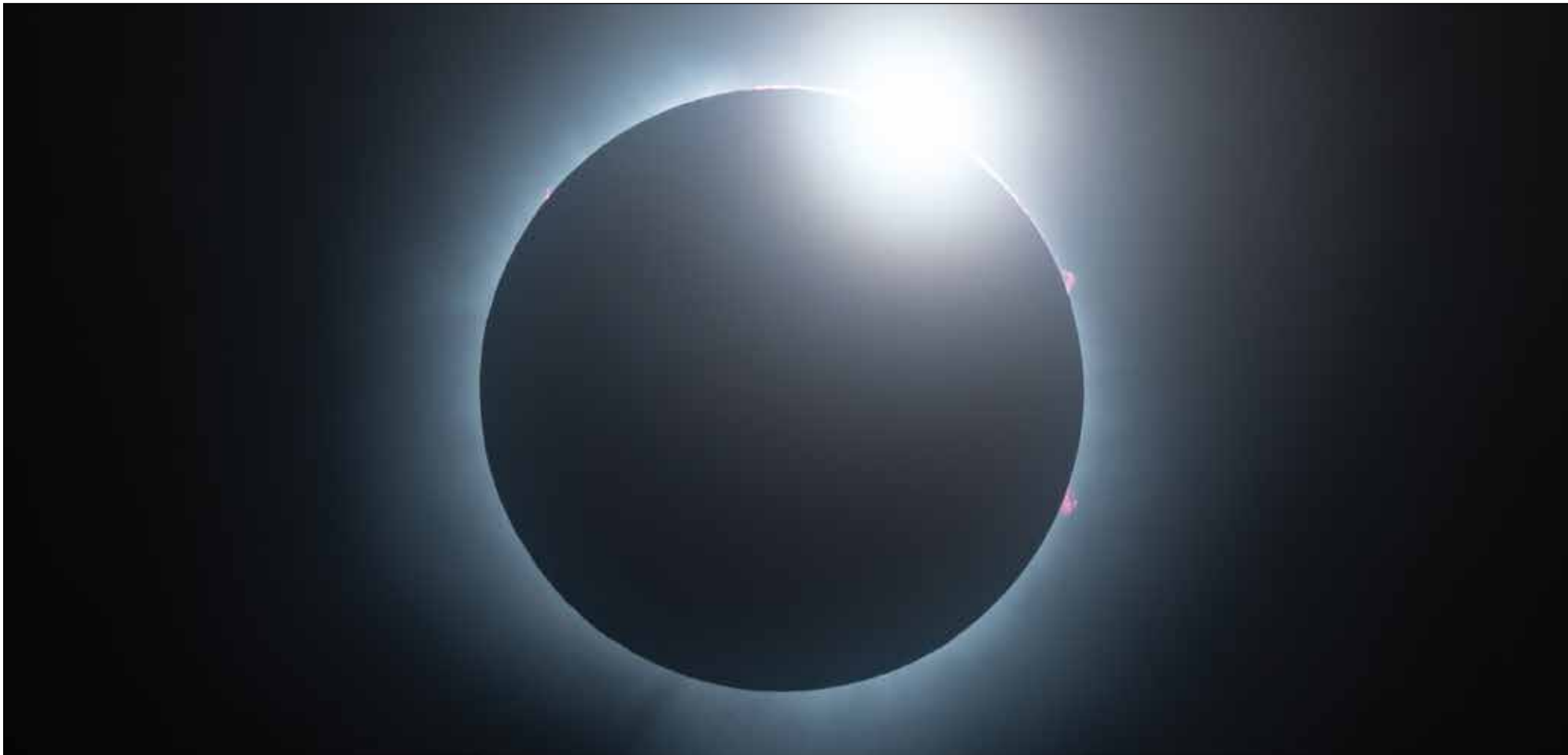
By Mike Baker

Clarification: As reported in the March 14 edition letters, Dysart et al planner Jeff Iles has not responded to the Luuberts letter to the editor regarding short-term rental zoning. We had an editor's note saying he had.

HAVE AN OPINION?

Send your letters to editor@thehighlander.ca (300 words max)

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Morgan Giles (top) and Carol Moffatt captured these images Monday of the total solar eclipse.

LETTER

Help with Eagle Lake project

Dear editor,

On April 13, 1992, Dysart council passed a bylaw declaring Eagle Lake the Rhubarb Capital of Ontario. At its March, 2024 meeting, the current council passed a motion to allow the installation of four interpretive panels at Eagle Lake beach. Two are to tell the story of the Eagle Lake Women’s Society (ELWS), one about the Rhubarb Festival,

and the fourth about the cooperage and the importance of forestry to Eagle Lake. It will cost \$7,500; the municipality contributing \$1,500 and about \$500 of in-kind support services; ELWS will fundraise \$1,000, and HCDC have approved a grant of \$3,500. The project is not 100 per cent funded. If you are interested in helping, send an email to: eaglelakerhubarbfestival@gmail.com. ELWS has no internet presence. The ELWS fundraising will be via a rhubarb pie sale in July, with pies for \$15. Last year there was a shortage of rhubarb, so donations are welcomed at the above email. A team of six will do research for the

project. Two will present to the cultural committee of Dysart. Four are from ELWS. The preliminary research has demonstrated gaps in the historical records. From 1939 to 1948 there is little or no information. The team would like input on what happened during that period. The team has all the information on who served in the armed forces during this time period. The organizational information on the Rhubarb Festival is well documented. The team wants high-quality photos taken during the event. It ran for 10 years. For the cooperage and forestry, the team is aware of photos published in the media. But

it would like access to original photos of the cooperage operation. The plan is to enhance photos. Of particular interest is the current status of the second tallest tree in Ontario which is, or was, in the Percy Lake area. A current photo would be appreciated. The cut-off date for receiving photos and records is April 30. The graphic design work will start in May and final council approval sought at the June meeting. The display to be unveiled in July. Peter McLuskey Eagle Lake



Artistic take on nature


Around 60 people attended an opening reception for ‘Connection and Response’, a new 22-piece exhibit by Temiskaming-based artist Bruce Cull, at Agnes Jamieson Gallery April 6. The show features pieces that showcase Cull’s interpretation of nature, and his fear of a lost connection between people and the environment. The exhibit will run until June 8.


Above: Bruce Cull poses beside a 108x60 inch triptych painting titled ‘Drummer’s Call’, which he completed in 2021. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

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Whodunnit?

Crowds at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton were last week transported to a crime scene in Chipping-Cleghorn, the fictional locale for Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*. The Highlands Little Theatre production was directed by Jack Brezina and produced by Kate Butler, featuring a dozen local performers on stage. The story centres on an investigation, led by Inspector Craddock (John Jackson) with help from Miss Marple (Ruth Carter), after Swiss national, Rudi Scherz (Sean Pennylegion), is killed at the home of Letitia Blacklock (Rita Jackson) – with multiple suspects under the spotlight.

Top left: Miss Marple, Letitia Blacklock, and Inspector Craddock try to make sense of Rudi Scherz's murder. Top right: Miss Marple questions Dora Bunner (Victoria Bingham) about Blacklock. Middle left: Inspector Craddock discovers the murder weapon while investigating with Miss Marple. Middle right: Inspector Craddock interrogates Phillipa Haymes (Heather Norris), Mrs. Swettenham (Norma Bingham), and Edmund Swettenham (Scott Duggan). Above: Phillipa Haymes, Dora Bunner, and Julia Simmons (Kate Butler) tend to Letitia Blacklock, who was injured during Scherz's murder. Right: Rita Jackson played Letitia Blacklock. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Online silent auction to support HHSS prom

By Lisa Gervais

Although it's not until June 8, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's prom committee – as well as the folks at Make Dreams Come True, who have been outfitting grads for 10 years – are preparing for this year's event.

High school teacher Justin Collins said the Grade 12 students who volunteered for this year's prom committee last September, have a mission.

"Their job is to plan, and fundraise for, prom because prom is a big event, and an expensive event. Our goal every year, since I've been here, is to plan for prom tickets to be as cheap as possible," Collins said.

"I never want a student to not be able to attend prom because of financial reasons. Our goal is to always create the best possible event for the cheapest price possible, so fundraising is our second big thing."

This year's prom will again be held at the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre. But what's new for 2024 is the school is planning a silent auction on Facebook that will run April 25-28 to raise money.

"We were thinking about all the different ways we could fundraise," Collins said. "We thought, we have a lot of really amazing businesses in the County, and maybe there's a way to do something that's mutually beneficial, for the school and the businesses. So, we've reached out to some companies, and people have been very generous with donations."

Collins said a number have already donated, but they are accepting more items. Meanwhile, the committee will continue to hammer out details, such as the theme of this year's gathering.

"If you have donated, thank you, we love your generosity, we appreciate you. If you have not, there is still time, even when the silent auction has started," the teacher said. "Let's get back to having a real prom that celebrates our kids."

He said the price was \$30 a ticket last year, compared to \$60-\$70 at other schools.

To donate, contact Collins via email at the school: justin.collins@tldsb.on.ca – you can also donate via Jennifer Jackson-Korpela at 705-457-2950 ext. 34000.

For more, go to Haliburton Buy and Sale on Facebook and look for HHSS Prom – Silent Auction Fundraiser.

Make Dreams Come True

Jenn Abbott is into her 11th year of collecting dresses, suits, shoes, jewelry, purses and other items and services to help grads find the perfect look – for free.

Abbott has it down to a science. She continues to run it



Ava Smith snaps a photo of fellow grads, Olivia Villamere and Brooke Stover, at a past prom. *File.*

as she did during COVID. So, instead of going to a pop-up to try on clothes and accessories, students contact her (via Facebook, email or cell phone) with dress or suit ideas, size and colour. She then goes through her inventory. Arrangements are made to have a few dresses or suits picked up, and tried on, at home. If they don't work, they come back. If there is a match, Abbott then adds footwear and other accessories. She makes up a gift bag from generous community donations.

She noted she receives items and services from local drug stores, retail outlets, local barbers, nail salons, and a local photographer.

It's a labour of love for the woman who did not attend her own prom because her family could not afford it.

"Living here, it's very much needed because it's hard for people, especially now with the cost of living, to be able to send their child to prom. Without the community, I wouldn't be able to do what I do. It brings me joy to be able to do this for the local grads."

"It's time they acknowledge all their hard work and their dedication to finishing school. A lot of kids don't. They drop out and get into the wrong crowd. Kids should be applauded and acknowledged and have their day feel extra special, and that's why I keep doing what I do."

Contact Abbott via The Make Dreams Come True Facebook page, email jen_jen_25@hotmail.com or call or text 705-286-0906.

Caring for ARC

On March 20, the Haliburton chapter of the 100 Women Who Care met at Castle Antiques to hear presentations by three charities. In the end, they chose Abbey Retreat Centre. On April 3, Margaret Cox and Pat Bradley met with Lynda Shepard, Barb Morrison and Thea Patterson to present them with \$8,000. This is WWC Haliburton's largest donation to date, and they are still welcoming new members. For more information about 100 Women Who Care Haliburton go to: 100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com/mysite or call Pat Bradley at 705-934-0011. (Lisa Gervais).

Left to right Lynda Shepard, ARC board chair, Margaret Cox, Pat Bradley and Thea Patterson, ARC secretary April 3. *Submitted.*



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Syrup flows in Highland Grove

The Highland Grove Community Centre opened its doors Saturday morning (April 6) for a pancake breakfast fundraiser. Organizer Melissa Burroughs said 85 adults and 11 children attended the breakfast, chowing down on pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausages, and toast. She said, "it was a great event, we had a lot of fun. It wouldn't be possible without the food donations from parishioners at St. John Vianney Church." The event raised an undisclosed amount of money to support programming at the Highland Grove Catholic church, as well as Our Lady of Lourdes church in Cardiff.

Top: Father Vic Valles of St. John Vianney Catholic Church serves breakfast to eight-year-old Meaghan Burroughs. Above: Morgan, Jack, Mac, and Julia Burroughs enjoying some pancakes. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Library literacy doing wonders at HHSS

By Mike Baker

Three years after launching a new literacy program at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Trish Dobson is starting to see the fruits of her labour.

The teacher-turned-chief librarian has been working closely with students behind on their reading since the fall of 2021. That was a difficult time at the school, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing kids to spend months learning from behind a screen rather than inside a classroom.

“A lot of kids were struggling – some more than others,” said Dobson, who had experience working with youth on their reading and comprehension through her daughter, who is dyslexic.

After spending years refining her at-home program, Dobson made several breakthroughs with her daughter, who she says can read just fine today. Having seen the impact extra tutoring can have, Dobson pitched opening it to students at the high school.

“I have a lot of empathy for kids who are dyslexic. Now that I understand the issue and what’s going on, I’m better placed to help,” she said. Dobson noted when she was a teacher, she was often confused when kids she knew to be intelligent hit a brick wall with reading.

First, she reached out to kids she knew were struggling as an English teacher. She would work with them one-on-one and in small groups, decoding words and coming up with ways to break them down. She estimates helping a dozen youth consistently across the first two years, and is now working with

Grade 9 classes on comprehension.

Dobson said she’s passionate about her work. While a teacher with Trillium Lakelands District School Board since 1998, she believes she’s done her best work since moving to the library.

“You keep track of all the wins, the differences you make – there was one student who came to me in Grade 9 reading at a very low level. I’ve worked with him for almost three years, and while he isn’t reading at grade level, he has progressed massively. He can read his texts now, which is kind of important for a teenager,” she said.

Her program has caught the eye of higher-ups at TLDSB. Dobson said she started prepping students for the Grade 10 literacy test last year, which paid huge dividends. The Haliburton school’s passing rate climbed from 70 per cent in 2022 to 87 per cent last year.

Dobson was honoured for her contributions with a director’s recognition award at a March TLDSB board meeting.

She was nominated by HHSS principal Jenn Mills, who said, “to call Trish our ‘librarian’ does not encompass the things she has done to reinvent what a librarian can do to impact students’ lives daily... the difference in all students’ reading, comprehension, and confidence over the semesters has been amazing. She is making a real difference.”

Wes Hahn, director of education at TLDSB, thanked Dobson for “going above and beyond to implement innovative solutions” to real problems students are facing in the classroom.

While she admits to being surprised by the



Trish Dobson, librarian at HHSS, recently received a TLDSB director’s award for her work developing new reading and literacy programs at the high school. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

award, Dobson said it’s further proof that her program is working. She is assisting colleagues at Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute and Huntsville High School to implement similar initiatives there, while continuing to enhance her offerings in Haliburton.

“I think we’ve created a real culture of literacy here at HHSS and at the library. If we can continue to build on that, and spread it to some of our other communities too, there’s no end to the number of students who stand to benefit,” Dobson said.

Little leaves no rock unturned at Mohawk College

By Mike Baker

Liam Little has come a long way from learning to toss rocks at the Minden Curling Club.

The 22-year-old wrapped up his three-year career as a Mohawk College Mountaineer at an April 2 end-of-season athletics banquet. He took home three awards for his contributions to the school’s curling program, playing lead.

Little was named co-male athlete of the year, alongside his curling teammates, after securing a third straight provincial college championship this year; an Athlete of Distinction award for his high-level performances this season; and the prestigious Dr. Sam Mitminger Award – presented to one graduating male and female student athlete who has achieved consistent academic and athletic excellence throughout the time at Mohawk.

Earning a rare individual triple crown was completely unexpected for Little.

“I was informed about a week before about the Mitminger award – it’s sort of like the valedictorian award for student athletes. That was a great honour. I was just blown away to even be considered,” Little said. “I thought I was done after that.”

Later in the evening, he was called onto the stage again to receive his distinction

award, which was accompanied by a framed Mountaineers curling jersey – something Little said he’ll cherish for the rest of his life.

The real kicker came at the end of the night, when the men’s curling team were announced as co-winners of the male athlete of the year award. After securing another Ontario title in February, Little and his teammates earned silver at nationals, in New Brunswick in March.

“That was the biggest surprise. There’s so many deserving athletes at Mohawk – to win best male athlete was just the cherry on top of the icing on top of the cake,” Little said. “It’s cool knowing that one will be in the books forever, and that I get to share it with my teammates.”

Little was a toddler when he first took up curling, progressing his skills at the Minden rink and in Haliburton, where he joined the local club’s youth curling program. It was there he met Jacob Dobson, who would become Little’s teammate at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. There, the two were part of a team that qualified for two OFSAA events, also winning a provincial invitational.

The pair have spent the past three seasons locking horns at the collegiate level, with Dobson representing the Humber Hawks – the team that edged Mohawk in the past two



Liam Little was named the co-recipient of the Dr. Sam Mitminger Award at Mohawk College’s athletics banquet, alongside Paige Epp. *Submitted.*

national championships.

“We sat down and had a drink together at nationals – we joked that provincials was my thing, and nationals was his thing. It’s been a heck of a ride since high school,” Little noted.

He’ll be graduating from Mohawk’s practical nursing program in the next couple of weeks, and then taking a year off to

travel. After getting a taste of professional curling this year, competing at the 2024 Ontario Tankard – a qualifier for the Brier – Little said he dreams of one day turning pro. “I’d love nothing more than to get back to that level... I have faith this year off will be good for me, and I’ll get back on the ice next year and see how far I can go,” Little said.



U9 LL Hockey Haven

Reflecting on the 2023-24 hockey season, a few words come to mind; development, teamwork and camaraderie. The season began in the fall with the team playing half-ice exhibition games where some of the veteran players such as Penelope Irvine, Sebastian Dart and Isaiah Young found their stride. We welcomed two new players, Wesley Bramham and Griffin Hunt, as they began their hockey development and would become some of the team's hardest workers and most-developed skaters. The move to full-ice in the new year came with fresh challenges and rules such as icing and offside where Nolan Carpenter, Jackson Little, and Cohan Carpenter helped lead the team to many wins against a barrage of competition. Playing in our first overnight tournament in Parry Sound was thrilling, not only on the ice but satisfying off the ice as well, seeing team bonds and friendships built. Our strong defensive side, including Gaelyn Mooney-Monster, Abby Stancati and Tripp Meier, shone through as they held the line like a brick wall. Goaltender Julian Mardus stood on his head when needed. We were proud to host our home tournament in February with stunning performances from Chase Casella, Emmett Legge and Bentley Wilson, all playing with heart when attacking or backchecking. Our year-end tournament in Port Carling was played with heart and intensity. The coaches and team were proud of the solid effort put forth. As the Highland Storm U9 season comes to a close, I'd like to thank the parents, grandparents, relatives and siblings for being so dedicated to getting our young athletes to the rink, tying skates, and being present to encourage these future stars.

(Submitted). (Photos by Tim Tofflemire).



U18 Tom Prentice and Sons Rep

The U18 Tom Prentice and Sons Rep team 2023-2024 season was a journey marked by growth, determination, and unforgettable moments. From the beginning, the team showcased their commitment to improvement, on and off the ice. The team launched the season with a promising start, tallying a record of 5-1-1. However, they soon faced adversity, grappling with injuries and enduring over a month without a win. This stretch tested their resilience and determination, but despite the setbacks, they emerged stronger and more connected as a team. They went on to finish the remainder of their regular season 5-3-1, propelling them into the playoffs with renewed confidence. After securing their spot in the semi-finals of the Victoria Durham League playoffs, they defeated Millbrook 2-1, setting the stage for a three-game series against Orono. The Storm took the series 2-1, earning them the title of Victoria Durham tier 2 champions and advancing to the OMHA championships. The highlight of the season unfolded during an unforgettable weekend as they secured the U18 tier 2 OMHA championship in Halton Hills. The team showcased unwavering determination and teamwork, leaving an enduring impression on everyone involved. Special thanks to Amber-Lee Johnston, Jamie Johnston, Tony Prentice and Scott Coles for their help and support. (Submitted).



U13 Walker's Heating & Cooling U13 Rep

The Walker's Heating & Cooling U13 Rep closed the chapter on their Cinderella season this past weekend at the tier 1 OMHA championships in Kingston. They played hard and gave everything they had but came up short, losing out in the semi-finals to tournament champions the Kincardine Kinucks. The group finished tied for third overall. Throughout the season, this group of players have shown a tremendous amount of development and improvement. They became role models for our future Storm players and were always pushing to go above and beyond. Setting our goals in the early days, we came home with more than we could have imagined. They were the first team to ever capture the International Silver Stick Championship in Forest, took home three of five tournament titles, and finished first in the Victoria Durham league in tier 1. Big thanks to coaching staff: James Reilly, Shawn Walker, Marcus Rowe and manager Cynthia Hutchinson for the unwavering support. We are all very proud of what we have accomplished and have set the bar high. Our parents deserve special recognition and I thank them for supporting our goals, encouraging positive attitudes, and keeping players focused. I wish this group nothing but the best for the future. It's been an absolute pleasure and a season I won't soon forget. (Coach Scott Neilson).

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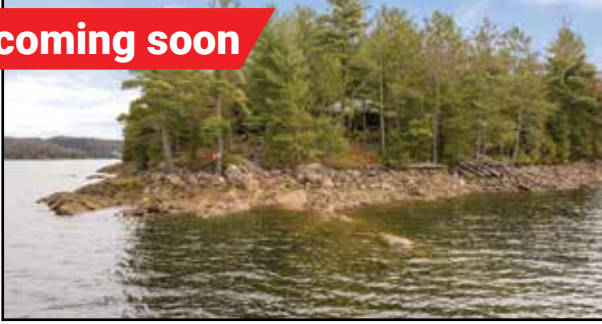
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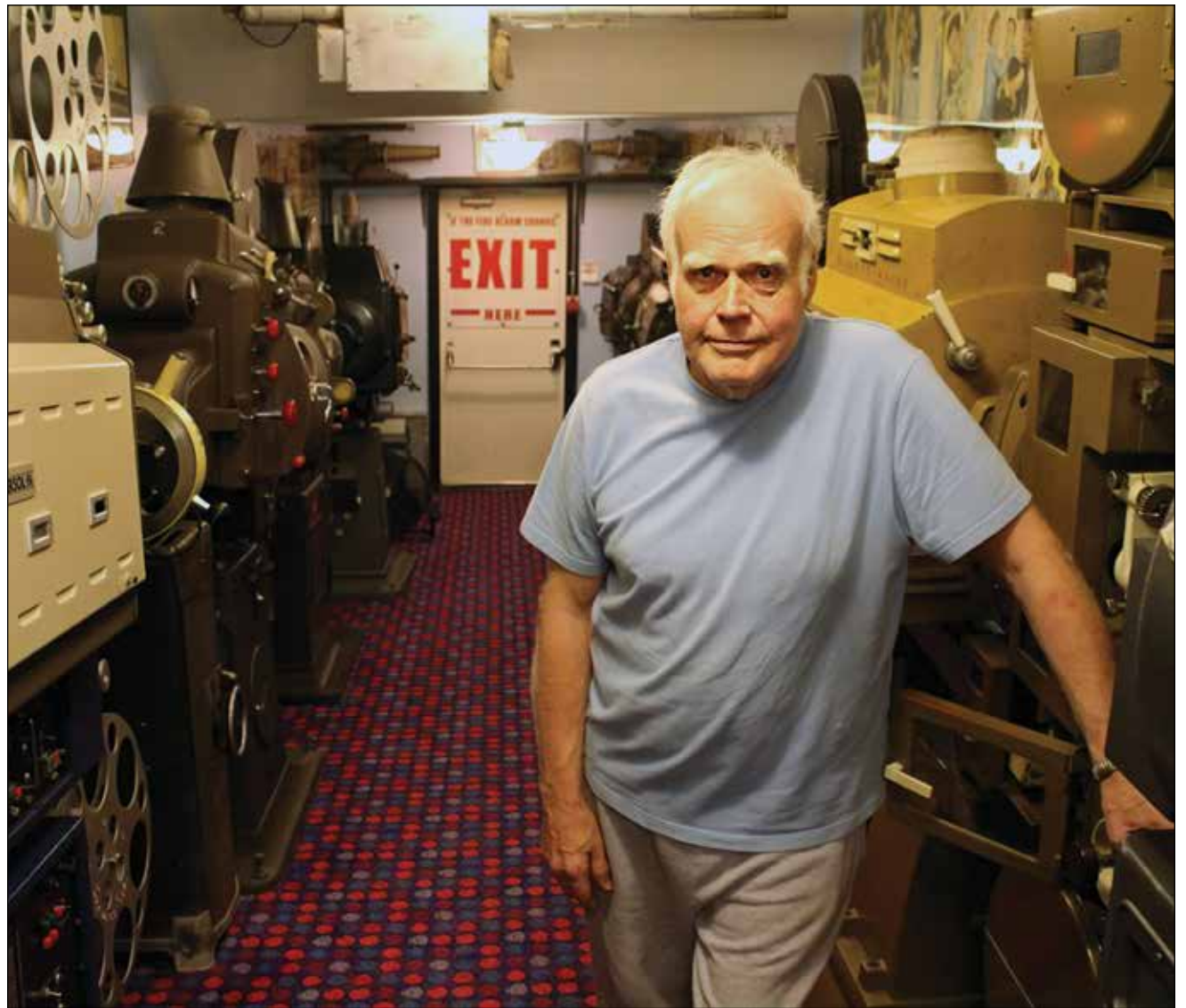
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DIRECTOR'S PLATINUM AWARD 2022 **SALES ACHIEVEMENT**



Keith Stata in his iconic Highlands Cinema in Kinmount. *File.*

Movie Man about to Doc(k)

By Lisa Gervais

Spoiler alert. Keith Stata, the “curmudgeonly and eccentric” owner of Highlands Cinema in Kinmount, admits he is a bit of a “potty mouth” in *The Movie Man*, which will feature at the April 13 Doc(k) Day in Haliburton.

Matt Finlin’s documentary will cap the film festival at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion with an 8 p.m. screening on Saturday night.

“It’s interesting to note this thing seems to be all over the place,” Stata said of Finlin’s tribute to the house that Keith built.

Director Finlin said after a sleepy start, the reception is now “beyond my expectations.” It made its film festival debut in Santa Barbara. It’s at the Roxy Theatre in Uxbridge this weekend. In addition to Ontario screenings, Finlin said he just found out the doco has been accepted to prestigious festivals in British Columbia and Alberta. He added it’s been acquired in the U.S. by Cargo Films, based in New York City. He’s hoping for a “good theatrical run” in the States, and hopefully streaming.

“I feel very lucky to have this happen, and get Keith’s story out there.” He said at a Kingston screening, the film, and Stata, received a standing ovation.

“I’m so happy that we made this movie. People seem to like it. It’s being seen and the support from the community in Haliburton and the Kawartha area has been so nice,” the director added.

Stata said he is pleased for Finlin, who spent five years working on the documentary.

The Kinmount cat aficionada added, “I think the Roxy Theatre is listing it as ‘language may offend’ and somebody called me ‘an old curmudgeon’ on one of the critic reviews. The ‘eccentric’ part wasn’t so bad, really. It’s kind of fun. So, I’m glad that it’s getting exposure.”

Stata will attend the film screening in Haliburton and join in the question-and-answer session. Finlin will also be there.

Stata said he had only agreed to do so in three places (Haliburton, Kingston, and Toronto) even though, “I know an awful lot of theatre owners and they are pressuring me to go, but I don’t have the time.”

Finlin commented, “every screening I go to, someone knows Keith, which is pretty amazing.”

As for the language warning, Stata said, “the problem was he followed me around for five years and after a while I just forgot he was there. There’s a lot of laughter involved in some of the stupid things I said. Like, I’m fighting with the projector. There’s a board that’s worth \$10,000 and there’s like 120 connections, so trying to shove the thing in is ridiculous. So, I was a little potty-mouthed at times. Normally if I’m around people, I try to keep my act together.”

Stata said from what he has seen, and heard, the film elicits emotion. “People are crying and laughing. I think he did a good job.”

He added he believes the documentary works because it was filmed during COVID.

“I think if COVID had not happened, I would not have been an interesting enough character to carry the movie. Because of the pandemic, it made it a whole different movie.”

Finlin added, “it’s hard making movies and it’s hard to get it seen. I don’t want to sound like I’m launching the space shuttle. I’m not doing anything really important. But, it’s a lot of grassroots effort, it’s a lot of luck, and, of course, the film has to be good as well. And, all of these things have kind of aligned and I’m just grateful for it.”

For more, go to ThoseOtherMovies.com, ThoseOtherMoviesHaliburton@gmail.com or call 705-457-0428.

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EVENTS

April 12
Abbey Retreat Centre spring fundraising concert No One Dances Alone at the Haliburton Legion featuring local bands Adverse Conditions and PriMates. SIRCH Bistro will be providing a chilli dinner, and the legion's bar will be open. Tickets are \$30 per person, and there will be a 50/50 draw. Go to abbeyretreatcentre.ca/calendar/no-one-dances-alone-fundraising-concert-for-cancer-support or call ARC at 705-754-2966.

April 13, 11 a.m.
Reuse feedbags, twine, and old broom handles to create an eco-friendly tote at the Wilberforce branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Recommended for youth aged 9 to 14, but parents and caregivers are welcome to participate. No registration required.

April 14, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Dorset painter Elizabeth Johnson is hosting an art exhibition at Pizza on Earth, showcasing 65 oil paintings completed over the past year on-location across Haliburton County and the Muskokas. There will be live music provided by Sarah Spring. Johnson will speak about her paintings beginning at 2 p.m.

April 17, 2 p.m.
Learn how to use the 'speed-dial' method of cold-moist stratification to prepare native wildflower seeds for planting. This is a free program for adults at the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. No registration required.

April 17, 7:30 p.m.
The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization presents its 'Love your Lake' seminar series, featuring Dr. Chris Houser, who will discuss boat wakes and their impacts on shorelines. To register, visit lko.ca.

April 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m. and every Wednesday after.
Scottish country dancing at Haliburton United Church/Friendship Hall, \$5 per person. Come one, come all! Join us for a multi-generational, lively, rockin' good time. It's old, it's new, it's fun, and it's social. Beginners welcome. No partner required. Please wear soft soled indoor shoes. RSVP at haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com

April 18, 1:30 p.m.
Haliburton County Historical Society is hosting a meeting at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, featuring guest speaker Fay Martin, vice president of local affordable housing group Places for People. Come and learn what this non-profit is all about. All are welcome.

April 18, 5 p.m.
Join the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Haliburton County Public Library for a special screening of *The Magnitude of All Things*. Admission is free and all ages are welcome. The documentary explores the emotional and psychological dimensions of the climate crisis and the relationship between grief and hope in times of personal and planetary change.

April 20, 1 to 5 p.m.
A brand new Earth Day event is being planned to celebrate the occasion in Gooderham. In the spirit of reduce, reuse, and recycle, the Gooderham Community Centre will be filled with tables offering new and gently used items for sale, as well as tables featuring Earth Day displays. Organized by the Gooderham Community Action Group. Hot dogs and refreshments will be available for purchase. All are welcome.

April 21, 1:30 p.m.
Environment Haliburton! presents 'Powering Ontario' a hybrid virtual/in-person presentation focusing on the need to transition to a 100 per cent renewable electrical grid, and how we can get there. Featuring Angela Bischoff, of the Ontario Clean Air Alliance. A Q&A will follow, with EH! then hosting its 2024 annual general meeting. All are welcome. In-person at Highland Hills United Church in Minden. For more information, visit environmenthaliburton.org.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129
Haliburton weekly activities
Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Rm.
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back, featuring a brand new machine. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519
Coboconk
Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.
First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.
Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

April 20: 7 p.m. Norm Harris Progressive Euchre Tournament, \$5 per person. Lunch provided.
April 26: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch - meatloaf or liver and onions. \$15 per person.

May 5: 1 p.m. Elections.
May 18: 2 p.m. Elimination draw, Grand prize is \$600. Tickets are \$10. BBQ and live entertainment throughout the day.

For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624
Wilberforce
April 11: HHHS drop in 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open 2 to 6 p.m.
April 12: Seniors 55+ lunch at noon, open 2 to 9 p.m. Wings and jam session 5 to 8 p.m.
April 13: Open 2 to 6 p.m. House league darts 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw at 3 p.m.
April 14: LA Breakfast 9 to 11 a.m. Closed after breakfast.
April 15 & 16: Closed
April 17: Open 2 to 6 p.m. Darts at 2 p.m.

If you are planning an event, our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan
Branch 636 Minden
Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
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Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

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Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.





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OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of
John Tidey
(Resident of Kinmount, Ontario)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of John W. Tidey on April 1, 2024. John passed peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre surrounded by his family. John was a loving father to Mackenzie and Emma, and beloved by Cheryl Tidey (nee Desormo). Predeceased by his father Walter, his mother Shirley (nee Hewton), his brother Doug, and his sisters Linda and Sandra. He was cherished by his uncle Tom (Meghan) and their boys Justin and Jacob. He was loved by his cousins Alison (Brad), David, and Christopher, and their children Ainsley, Thomas, Derek, and David. He will be missed dearly by his nephews Adam (Maja), Christopher (Chelsea), Andrew, and his late nephew Michael.

He was the proud owner and operator of Tidey Tree Care and worked within the Brampton/Mississauga area for 3 years before settling in Haliburton County for 24 years. His business thrived with the support of his dedicated employees, his family, and community members. He will be remembered fondly by his loving family, his friends, and those in the community who supported his business. His family would like to extend their thanks to those in the community for their loyal support over the years. Please honour John by telling your loved ones how much they matter to you.

A Remembrance Gathering

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Saturday afternoon, April 20, 2024 from 1 - 4 p.m. A private family interment will take place later St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Maple Lake. As an expression of sympathy, please consider planting a tree in John's memory.



In Loving Memory of
Jean Kernohan

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, April 6, 2024, in her 80th year.

Beloved daughter of the late Roy Alexander Kernohan (1995) and Elizabeth Ethel Ferguson (2000) and sister of the late Glenn Alexander Kernohan (2021). Jean is lovingly remembered by the Stamp Family and by good friends Irma Walker and Carol Hill.

Jean was a farmer her whole life.

A Graveside Interment Service will be held at the Minden Cemetery on Friday, May 10th, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Snowflake Meadows Rescue (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



IN MEMORIAM



In Loving Memory of
Linda Ellen Nesbitt
(nee Foster)

Passed away suddenly in the Dominican Republic on March 24, 2024, while on vacation with her family, at the age of 76.

Loving wife of Ron for 57 years. Dear mother of Laurie and her husband Conrad Cormier of St. Thomas, Ronn and his wife Jenn of Minden. Loving grandma of Nicholas and his wife Tynille, Virginia, Andrew, Rachel and her partner Dez, Maggie and her partner Dylan, Holly and her partner Dylan, J.P., Jillian, Tamara and her husband Tom, Nairen and great grandma to Liam, Sparrow, Maxwell, Marcus, Michael, Damien, Dorian, Lyza, Lincoln, Francesco, Anthony and Lilith. Dear sister of Jim (Eileen), Charles, Gordon (Barb), Tom (Marg), Shirley (Bert), Ken (Mary), Robert (Sandra), Mary, Lloyd (Janet). Fondly remembered by nieces, nephews, family and friends. Linda was a member of Minden Lions Club and enjoyed being a member.

Friends are invited to Celebrate Linda's Life at the Minden and District Lion's Club, 166 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden on a date and time to be announced.

Memorial Donations to the Minden and District Lion's Club Administration Account (cheques only) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

LAWYER

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Courts: MINDEN • LINDSAY • PETERBOROUGH • BANCROFT

SOLUTIONS FOR APRIL 11

1	C	O	L	A		5	C	F	C		8	B	L	A	N	C	A
14	P	N	O	M		15	M	L	A		16	R	E	S	E	L	L
17	I	T	O	O		18	D	O	W		19	N	A	T	H	E	E
	20	A	S	R		21	A	R	E		22	C	N	S		23	D
24	C	R	E	A	M		25	G	O	D	S		26	G	I	F	T
27	F	I	L	L	E		28	O	F	S	O	L	E				
30	L	O	I			31	O	N	O		32	I	N	D			
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						39	S	P	H		40	C	A	A		41	A
						44	S	I	L	V	E	R	T		47	O	N
49	S	T	O	O	L	I	E	S		52	L	O	G	I	N		
53	Y	O	N		54	D	O	E		55	P	A	D	R	E	S	
57	S	T	A		58	I	R	T	R	59	E	A	D		60	I	D
62	T	O	I	L	E	T		63	M	R	D		64	S	O	N	Y
65	S	E	R	E	N	A		66	O	K	S		67	K	N	E	E

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	I	S	T	O	O		6	U	L	T	R	A		11	B	R	O
14	S	C	U	T	S		15	N	O	W	A	Y		16	E	E	N
17	S	A	B	B	A	T	18	I	C	A	L	L	19	E	A	V	E
20	A	R	E			21	I	C	K	S		22	M	Y	S	I	N
23	R	A	T	R	A	C	E			26	B	E	E	T	L	E	
27	A	B	O	W	L	O	F	C	H	E	R	R	I	E	S		
30	E	S	P	Y	S		31	Y	E	T		32	S	E	S	S	
						33	O	F	F	B	E	A	T				
37	A	C	T	A		41	E	O	E		42	H	A	S	T	A	
47	W	H	I	S	T	L	E	R	S	M	O	T	H	E	R		
51	A	I	N	T	I	T		52	M	A	R	L	E	N	E		
53	I	C	I	E	R		54	I	M	O	N		56	S	T	A	
57	T	H	E	R	E	D	D	F	O	X	59	X	60	S	H	O	W
61	E	I	S		62	O	V	E	R	T		63	E	V	E	N	A
64	D	S	T		65	F	R	E	S	H		66	S	U	D	S	Y

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WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED ANTIQUES

Furniture, advertising signs, gold, silver or costume jewellery, wrist & pocket watches, old coins, sterling silver, tea cups & china, records, military items & paintings, **Anything old** etc.

BOB CARRUTH + 705-887-1672

HELP WANTED
**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

We are currently seeking an experienced Executive Director to work with our Board of Directors to provide leadership to the Abbey Gardens staff team. Responsibilities include: financial management, planning and development, nurturing community partnerships, human resources, marketing and communications, and oversee strategic growth.

For full job description please go to abbeygardens.ca/get-involved/#jobs

Applications can be submitted via email to bolin.barb@gmail.com. Deadline for applications is **April 19**. Interviews will be done on a rolling basis so please apply early.


**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires a
Business Solutions & GIS Supervisor**

The successful applicant will have completed post-secondary education in Business Administration, Geographic Information Systems or a related discipline. They must have proven experience as a Business Analyst, analytical and problem-solving abilities and leadership.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to pweiss@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than April 19, 2024 at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.


**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires an Executive Assistant to the
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

The successful applicant will have completed post-secondary education in Office Administration or equivalent and possess a minimum of three years of progressive experience. Prior experience in a municipal environment and knowledge of Haliburton County is an asset.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to trosenberg@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than April 19, 2024 at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.


**Employment Opportunity
Municipality of Dysart et al
Roads Department Seasonal Employees**

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the successful applicants will have sound knowledge of the methods, tools and equipment required for the general maintenance of roads during summer months. Primary duties include, but are not limited to, traffic control, pothole patching and spray patching. Previous road maintenance and/or construction experience is considered an asset.

Self-motivated applicants must be able to work outdoors with minimal supervision. A valid Ontario Class 'DZ' licence is required along with an acceptable abstract. A Criminal Reference Check will be required. Pursuant to CUPE Local #2142 the rate of pay is \$24.51 per hour based on a 40-hour work week.

A detailed job description is on our website at www.dysartetal.ca

Interested individuals are invited to email a detailed resume and cover letter to:

Sonja Marx, HR Manager
hr@dysartetal.ca

No Later Than 12:00 pm Wednesday, April 24th, 2024.

**** We thank all who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. ****


**Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails
Department**

We are currently accepting resumes for the following seasonal positions:

- Seasonal Trails Office Attendant
- Seasonal Student Trail Technician
- Stewardship Youth Ranger
 - Lead Swim Instructor
 - Assistant Swim Instructor

For the complete job descriptions, please visit our website at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Please submit your resume and cover letter to:
Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

FOR SALE

HONEY FOR SALE – pure, raw, un-pasteurized honey, liquid, creamed & bees wax available now. “Eating raw honey can help with seasonal allergies”. Call Tom 705-286-3628

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIRE WOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. \$125 per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE - John Deere riding lawn mower. Model L130. 48” deck. Price includes a custom-built tipping garden trailer. \$950. Call 705-457-6366.

FOR SALE - 2022 RV Crossroad Trailer. Excellent condition. Fully equipped. 36 ft. Sleeps 10. Great family unit. Paid \$65,000. Asking \$40,000. Call 647-526-6285

FOR SALE – Dual Axle 12’ x 6’ trailer, as is, make an offer. Call 705-457-0878

FOR SALE – 28 ft house trailer (2006) good condition, satellite TV \$14,000 or best offer. Call for further information. 705-457-3283 OR 705-455-3274

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Room for rent, house to share. Call Dave at 705-457-6168

FOR RENT – Student rooms 2 furnished rooms in Haliburton \$800 and \$900 per month plus approximately \$100 per month for utilities, parking, internet. No smoking, no pets. First & last month required. Call 705-457-0878

FOR RENT – 3 bdrm house in Haliburton, available June 1st. No pets, no smoking. \$1,200 plus utilities. Call 705-457-2054

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT - 160 Highland Street, Haliburton. 1500 sq ft available April 1, 2024. Measton3@rogers.com or call 705-457-8868

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, various sizes. Call 705-457-1224

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Cobble it Together

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across**
- 1 Soda gun contents
 - 5 Banned refrigerant, for short
 - 8 Spanish "white"
 - 14 ___-Penh, Cambodia
 - 15 Prov. riding electee
 - 16 Unload secondhand
 - 17 More formal "ditto me"
 - 18 In a shabby state
 - 20 Comparable to hen's teeth, it's said
 - 22 N.A.'s only transcontinental trains
 - 23 "Gloria in excelsis ___"
 - 24 Blend together, as butter and sugar
 - 25 Real Don Juan, or so he thinks
 - 27 Boneless seafood entrée
 - 30 Legault's "law"
 - 31 Tokyo-born artist/activist
 - 32 Politically neutral: Abbr.
 - 34 Energizer, as caffeine or sugar
 - 39 Ball-shaped fig.
 - 40 Roadside Assistance grp.
 - 41 Exasperated cry from Cathy
 - 44 Smooth talker's gift
 - 49 Rats without tails
 - 52 Unlock one's computer
 - 53 Hither and ___
 - 54 She's a deer
 - 55 Military chaplains
 - 57 Place to step up or step down
 - 60 "___ it all by myself!" (kid's boast)
 - 62 Head of the navy?
 - 63 CBC sitcom about an inept teacher
 - 64 Walkman maker
 - 65 "A Little Bit of Red" singer Ryder
 - 66 Green-lights
 - 67 Genuflecting joint
- Down**
- 1 Econ. benchmark
 - 2 Highway 401 province
 - 3 They "sink ships"
 - 4 Unconcerned with right and wrong

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
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- 5 I.S.S. leader
- 6 Frozen floater
- 7 Sound of a murder
- 8 Corleone patriarch portrayer
- 9 Forgets to keep on the down-low
- 10 Forehead substance marking
- 11 "___ say more?"
- 12 Western actor Lee Van ___
- 13 Divvy out
- 19 Armed Forces Sgt. and Cpl.
- 21 Soul, for Solange
- 24 Grp. with many kickoffs
- 25 Blastoff pressures, for short
- 26 Puny inheritance
- 28 Kesha hit "Tik ___"
- 29 Solo number?
- 33 Showed no sign of ending
- 35 ___ facto
- 36 Fictional shoe dweller's abundance
- 37 One-time Mideast initials
- 38 Vanna's cohort
- 42 Regional culinary style
- 43 Jennings with 74 "Jeopardy!" wins
- 45 Ray of "Goodfellas"
- 46 Not stay on topic, with "off"
- 47 Like Methuselah
- 48 Failproof, as an investment
- 49 Methods: Abbr.
- 50 From head ___
- 51 How the ecstatic walk
- 55 Top notch in automatic cars?
- 56 Enhances, with "to"
- 58 "___ du-Prince-Édouard"
- 59 Punk music offshoot
- 61 Use Just For Men



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	7			9	4			
				6				
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	2		9	7	1			4





Open House

Saturday, April 13th



2330 Wilkinson Road

12:00-2:00



1154 Wilkinson Road

12:00-2:00



1107 Pine Point Road

1:00-3:00

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$2,495,000

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5 X BED 4 X BATH
107 FT. FRONTAGE 3437 SQ. FEET MLS# 40542149

KENNISIS LAKE
\$1,675,000

4 X BED 3 X BATH
MUNICIPAL ROAD DEN MLS# 40544097

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE
\$1,649,000

3 X BED 3 X BATH
2.58 ACRES BOATHOUSE MLS# 40485914

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$1,245,500

3 X BED 2 X BATH
GREAT LOCATION MLS# 40561873

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3 X BED 3 X BATH
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HALIBURTON LAKE
\$999,000

3 X BED 2 X BATH
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3 X BED 1 X BATH
SOUTHERN EXPOSURE BOATHOUSE MLS# 40552668

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\$195,000

MUNICIPAL ROAD
24.65 ACRES 330 FT. FRONTAGE MLS# 40476956

GRACE RIVER ROAD
\$185,000

2.61 ACRES LAKEFRONT MLS# 40549856

GRACE RIVER ROAD
\$179,000

1.23 ACRES RIVERFRONT MLS# 40549838

LAKEVIEW ST.
\$159,900

MUNICIPAL ROAD
1.47 ACRES GREAT LOCATION MLS# 40538935

GULL LAKE
\$1,290,000

MLS# 40546940

HWY 118
\$479,000

MLS# 40543181

MOUNTAIN STREET
\$628,000

MLS# 40529487

HALIBURTON LAKE
\$875,000

MLS# 40534333

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